

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for isomerizing aromatic compounds, which comprises contacting at least one aromatic compound with a zeolite-containing catalyst having a pore structure of controlled diameter, said zeolite being characterized in that:

(1) when said pore aperture has a circular or a non-circular cross section and ~~accordingly has~~ a minimum diameter and a maximum diameter, the minimum value of the pore aperture diameter of the major channels therein is larger than 0.65 nanometers, and the maximum value thereof is larger than 0.70 nanometers,

(2) the pore structure has essentially one dimensional pores wherein said major channels do not intersect any others having larger apertures than an oxygen 10-membered ring, and

(3) said zeolite has a crystal size of at most 1 μm ;

and wherein said aromatic compounds are selected from the group consisting of:

(a) aromatic compounds having at least three substituents,

(b) aromatic compounds having two substituents of which at least one is a halogen or has at least 2 carbon atoms, and

(c) naphthalene or anthracene derivatives having substituent(s).

2. (Previously Presented) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1, wherein said minimum value of the pore aperture diameter of said major channels in the zeolite is 0.7 nanometers or above.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the pore aperture size of said major channels in the zeolite is larger than an oxygen 12-membered ring.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the catalyst is contacted with a substituted aromatic compound in which at least one substituent is a halogen.

5. (Previously Presented) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the catalyst is contacted with an aromatic compound having at least three substituents.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said zeolite is one selected from the group consisting of SSZ-31, VFI, AET, AFI, AFR, AFS, ATS, BOG, BPH, DFO, GME, LTL, MAZ, MEI, OFF, CFI having large pores of which the pore entrance diameter is larger than an oxygen 12-membered ring pore, and UTD-1.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the maximum value of the pore entrance diameter is at most 1.1 nm.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said zeolite has a one-dimensional pore system.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said zeolite is synthetic.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said zeolite is formed.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said catalyst contains metal.

13. (New) A method for isomerizing aromatic compounds, which comprises contacting at least one aromatic compound with a zeolite-containing catalyst having a pore structure of controlled diameter, said zeolite being characterized in that:

(1) when said pore aperture has a circular or a non-circular cross section and a minimum diameter and a maximum diameter, the minimum value of the pore aperture diameter of the major channels therein is larger than 0.65 nanometers, and the maximum value thereof is between 0.70 and 0.9 nanometers,

(2) said major channels do not intersect any others having larger apertures than an oxygen 10-membered ring, and

(3) said zeolite has a crystal size of at most 1 μm ;

and wherein said aromatic compounds are selected from the group consisting of:

(a) aromatic compounds having at least three substituents,

(b) aromatic compounds having two substituents of which at least one is a halogen or has at least 2 carbon atoms, and

(c) naphthalene or anthracene derivatives having substituent(s).